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I write to you not with statistics about the value of the net energy billing program, but rather personal concern for the many folks who would like to do solar and need an affordable way to finance it. The electricity bill savings from net energy billing provide a big financial boost to those for whom paying for a solar system is a heavy lift. Last year I gave a dozen presentations around the State informing people about how they could shrink their energy bills. Many were seeking ways to get solar done on their roofs using an ownership model. Most were not wealthy people. The net energy billing program for solar has been critically helpful to folks like these, and should be continued.

Another story that illustrates the usefulness of the net energy billing policy: my tiny Bath church embarked on a fundraising program to do solar on our perfect South facing roof, but over several years was only able to come up with about a third of the cost for the \$23,000 system. It was going to take years more to reach our goal. Instead, we took out four personal loans to be paid back over 5 years at a low interest rate to finance the balance needed to get the system up years faster. This would have been a non-starter if we hadn't been able to show our members how the panels would significantly reduce our electricity bills through the net energy billing program, which of course also helped persuade our lenders that our solar effort was a safe bet. Even though we couldn't qualify for the 30% solar tax credit due to our nonprofit status, solar made sense to all of us because of net energy building.

A state that fails to see the handwriting on the wall about the climate change impacts to come and fails to reduce its fossil fuel emissions is just shooting itself in the foot. As the cost of the climate damage increases, it will become ever more clear that encouraging more solar makes sense. Please reject these shortsighted bills.